

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

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CALIFORNIA has become the first state to provide a safety order regulating noise levels inside factories. The order "... sets up minimum standards for the control of and exposure to excessive industrial noise in order to contribute to the conservation of employees' hearing."

The order was created because of the increasing awareness of the health effects of noise on the hearing of workers. Whenever exposure to noise equals or exceeds levels established by the American Standards Association, the employer is to provide ear protectors.

It is expected that other states will follow the lead of California, making safety orders for noise as common as those dealing with light and ventilation.

To date, there have been only 11 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis reported in California since the first of the year. This compares with 19 and 35, respectively for the corresponding periods in 1962 and 1961. There have been no deaths.

The Center for Premature Infants at the Palo Alto-Stanford Hospital was officially dedicated recently. The purpose of the Center is to intensively study the premature infant and his response to his environment. Best possible care will be provided by an experienced nursing and physician staff.

Referrals by physicians to the Center are now being accepted by Dr. Irwin A. Schafer, director. Transportation for the infants within 25 miles of the hospital will be provided by an ambulance with a portable incubator and a trained nurse in attendance.

Levels of air pollution as reflected by the concentration of contaminants showed no pronounced

change in 1962, according to the Bureau of Air Sanitation. There was evidence, however, that smog levels were generally a little higher at most sites. In a few instances the values were lower.

The Los Angeles basin suffered a noticeable increase in the number of "eye irritation days" in 1962. That more eye irritation was experienced is reflected by a parallel increase in the "smog warning days" as reported by the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District.

The year's data again reveals an air pollution pattern that is recognized as being typical of the California problem. Photochemical smog with high oxidant continues to be experienced in the state's population centers and the Los Angeles region has the most frequent and most severe attacks of smog.

The air quality standards for oxidant—0.15 parts per million for one hour—adopted by the department were exceeded at a number of places. A few sites exceeded this standard on approximately one-half of the days in 1962. Only in Los Angeles was the standard for carbon monoxide—30 parts per million for eight hours—exceeded.

The department again this year has provided funds for several special demonstration projects in local health departments. The projects include a cancer detection program in Los Angeles, a study of illnesses in summer camps in San Bernardino County, dietary practices of senior citizens in Pasadena.

Others are: a glaucoma follow-up in San Jose, family centered health services in Sacramento, demonstration of fly control methods in Orange County and a migrant worker health program in Kern County.

